

**Abstract**

A method for improving the bit error rate of a modulated optical signal transmitted over single mode fiber is provided. The modulating voltage supplied to a single arm or alternatively to both arms of a Mach-Zehnder modulator is increased to result in a reduced extinction ratio of the modulated optical signal. This results in an optimum optical signal with a reduced bit error rate at a receiver coupled to the Mach-Zehnder modulator.

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